

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this Application and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-8, 11-15 and 18 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 13 and 15 are amended, all without the introduction of any new matter. Support for the amended claims can be found in the claims as originally filed. For example, cancelled Claims 2 and 3 were added to Claim 1 to further clarify the subject matter of the invention.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 5, 6, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Jambhekar et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,848,356, herein "Jambhekar"); and Claims 2-4, 7-11, 13, 14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Jambhekar in view of Smith et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,084,951, herein "Smith").

As mentioned above, applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 5, 13 and 15 to incorporate the subject matter similarly recited in dependent Claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17. Specifically, Claims 1, 5, 13 and 15 have been amended to recite that the plurality of symbols/graphic icons form a graphic map and the graphic map comprises a community configured by the symbols/graphic icons. Additionally, Claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17 have been cancelled.

Turning now to the rejection in the outstanding Office Action of Claims 1, 5, 6, 12 and 15 under 102(b) based on Jambhekar, Applicants respectfully traverse that rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites, in part,

a plurality of graphic icons; and
a plurality of phone numbers respectively linked to the
plurality of graphic icons on a one-to-one basis,

wherein the plurality of graphic icons form a graphic map, and
wherein the graphic map comprises a community configured by the icons.

Claims 5, 13 and 15 recite similar features.

Jambhekar describes an electronic directory of phone numbers with functional graphic icons which represent communication service related to a phone number. For example, graphic icons represent fax, email, office telephone, pager or home telephone.¹ Thus, Jambhekar describes phone numbers are connected with pre-defined finite kinds of graphic icons which represent communication services. Furthermore, the phone numbers described in Jambhekar match the pre-defined finite type of graphic icons on a multiple-to-one basis.

In contrast, Claim 1 describes “a plurality of phone numbers respectively linked to the plurality of graphic icons on a one-to-one basis wherein the plurality of graphic icons form a graphic map, and...the graphic map comprises a community configured by the icons.” Thus, the invention as is recited in Claim 1, describes that the graphic icons of the invention are saved in hierarchical structures, for example in structures of “district->community->building” and the plurality of graphic icons match a plurality of phone numbers on a one-to-one basis.

In other words, Jambhekar describes an electronic directory of phone numbers with functional graphic icons which represent communication services related to the number. Thus the graphic icons of Jambhekar are not unique to a specific number. For example, several numbers in Jambhekar could use the house icon shown in Fig. 5p. In contrast, the graphic icons described in Claim 1 are specific to the number and unique within the icon’s community.

¹ Jambhekar, Fig. 5p and col. 5, lines 49-67.

Accordingly, Jambhekar does not disclose all of the features recited in Claim 1, thus Applicants respectfully submit independent Claim 1 and similarly independent Claims 5, 13 and 15 patentably distinguish over Jambhekar.

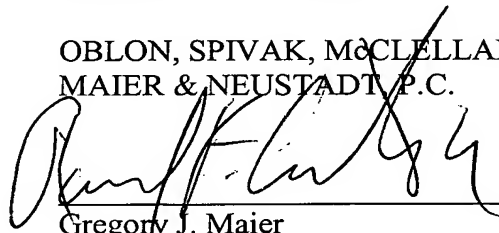
Further, Smith does not cure the above noted deficiencies of Jambhekar in regard to the plurality of graphic icons that match the plurality of phone numbers on a one-to-one basis.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 5, 13 and 15 and dependent Claims depending therefrom, patentably distinguish over Jambhekar and Smith considered alone or together in any proper combination.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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